

Name New Factory Manager At KOW

Three changes in top level management of the United States Rubber company's operation at the Kankakee unit, Joliet Arsenal, were announced today in New York by John C. H. Wendes, production manager of the company's Naugatuck Chemical Division.

The changes were made necessary by the transfer of J. E. Helquist, factory manager of the Kankakee plant since the beginning of its reactivation in January of 1951, to the company's vinyl resin plant in Painesville, O.

Succeeding Helquist will be H. R. Gaetz, who currently is serving as assistant factory manager and production superintendent, while Paul Blunt, present TNT superintendent, will assume the duties of production superintendent.

ALL CHANGES will take effect Aug. 1, when Helquist is slated to begin his new duties as plant engineer at the Ohio plant which is being expanded into one of the nation's largest plastic plants.

Gaetz is one of the "veterans" of the KNK plant, having been here since Jan. 24, 1951, during the present operation besides having served as production superintendent from February thru June, 1944, during the World War II operation.

He first joined the U. S. Rubber company in 1942 after 10 years working in chemical industries at home and abroad. As a U. S. Rubber employe, he has seen service at the Pennsylvania Ordnance Works in Williamsport, Pa., the Institute Synthetic Rubber plant in Charlestown, W. Va., and the Naugatuck Chemical plant in Naugatuck, Conn.

IN 1949, GAETZ responded to the

call of our government for industrial experts to aid in the establishment of basic industrial plants in Korea. As a member of the Economic Cooperation Administration, he stayed in Korea until the outbreak of the war, mapping plans for the installation of cement, glass, paper and other plants.

Gaetz is a naturalized citizen of the United States, having been born and reared in the town of Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. He was graduated from the University of Alberta and continued his chemical engineering studies with three years of graduate work at the University of Washington.

He lives at the Arsenal with his wife. They have a son and a daughter, both married and both living in the east.

Blunt, who is being elevated to the post of production superintendent, has been TNT superintendent since May, 1951. This is his first post as a U. S. Rubber company employe altho as an employe of the Rubber Reserve Corporation of Washington, D. C., he was in constant contact with leaders in the company rubber plants.

HE ALSO WORKED for the Fraser, Brace Engineering company and at the Keystone Ordnance Plant at Meadville, Pa., before joining the U. S. Rubber company.

He is a member of the American Chemical Society of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Graduated from Wittenberg college in Ohio, he did post-graduate work at Johns Hopkins and New York universities.

Blunt is married and lives with his wife and three children in the civilian quarters at the Arsenal.